

**TOPEX/POSEIDON RECEPTION  
FRENCH EMBASSY  
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 1992**

- o I would like to thank Ambassador Jacques Andreani [AHN-dray-ah-nee] for hosting this joyous occasion.**
- o When we went to the Moon, we found something unexpected. For the first time, we saw our home as a small, blue planet, alone in the blackness of space.**
- o From that distant perspective, one could not see international borders, just one great mass of water, clouds, and land.**

- Every nation shares one environment. All of us are crew members on a spaceship called Earth.
- As Earth's environment changes, we must separate fact from emotion in determining what that change will mean for our lives.
  - That's why we've undertaken Mission to Planet Earth -- to use space to study the biosphere, atmosphere, and oceans, and how they interact.

- **It's a monumental mission that the nations of the world must unite to accomplish.**
  - **Just as the spirit of Washington and Lafayette symbolized cooperation in a different era, today we rekindle that spirit with the launch of the joint United States/France oceanographic satellite TOPEX/Poseidon.**

- **Topex/Poseidon will revolutionize the way we view our blue planet.**
  - **Its radar altimeters will measure the sea surface to within 3 centimeters.**
  - **These measurements will yield accurate maps of the ocean currents that are a key component of climate change.**
  
- **Symbolic of this International Space Year, the joint science team includes 38 principal investigators from nine countries.**

- **There is an old saying: "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."**
  - **Our children, and all future generations, are counting on us.**
  - **So let us search for the truth with the spirit of cooperation, and demonstrate to all nations what we can do for the benefit of all humankind.**

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